LNS' FINANCIAL WOES: THIS IS WHERE THE MONEY GOES.

In the last packet we made an urgent plea for subscribers to send us money. We explained that costs had increased and subscribers' payments had decreased, and if more money doesn't start coming in to us, we cannot go on.

The urgency of that plea continues, and until we receive more money, we have to operate on a reduced scale.

If you who use LNS would put us higher on your list of monthly priorities, if we could just get what you agreed to pay us on a regular monthly basis, we will be able to go back to our regular sized packets.

In addition to information included in the last packet, we thought we should itemize our budget for last year and draw up a proposed one for this year.

(continued on PAGE 1)

LIBERATION NEWS SERVICE

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COVER: LNS Financial Woes--This is Where the Money Goes. Honest folks, we do the best we can to make what money we have go as far as possible. Please help us.

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IMPORTANT CORRECTION!!!!

In packet #600, March 27, the story entitled "Judge Refuses to Overturn Martin Sostre's Conviction; Harassment Continues" on page 10.

The prisoner referred to in the third to the last paragraph in the article should be Jim Sullivan (not Joseph Sullivan).

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT CORRECTION!!!

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IF YOU ARE MISSING A PAGE OR GET A BADLY PRINTED GRAPHIC, LET US KNOW AND WE'LL SEND YOU ANOTHER SOON.

LNS MONEY WOES--Continued from cover

This is a break-down of our 1973 budget, and a projected budget for 1974 based on increased prices, as we know them presently.

In the case of phone, insurance, subs to establishment publications and fees, and taxes, we can only hope that costs won't increase this year. Of course, this isn't likely, but since we have no way of knowing how prices will go, we can only estimate the same expenditure for 1974.

Our estimate for travel is simply repeated. We hope we will be able to travel at least as much as last year, which wasn't much. This is really an unlimited category, since the more money we have, the more likely we are to commit it to travel. It is the one area where the quality of LNS work is dependent upon expenditure. The more traveling we do, the more varied and better informed our work is.

Production and office supplies increase primarily due to the increase in the price of paper.

Utilities' prices are based upon the present increases over last years' costs.

And postage is estimated on the recent increase in both first and second class rates.

Our figures for 1973 reflect, we think, the maximum extent to which we could have cut back. As we have already said in the last packet, 1973's budget fell over $12,000 short of 1972's, and 1972's almost $10,000 short of 1971's. We are operating as low as we can right now, and don't think we can cut back any further.

We think that the 1974 estimates are conservative, which means our costs could be a lot higher.

The fact is that to meet these increased costs, as we explained in the last packet, we need a lot more money from you.

	1973	Projected 1974
PAYROLL	$20,285.00	$24,000.00
PAYROLL TAXES	2,430.00	4,000.00
RENT	6,124.50	5,875,00
PHONE	5,850.00	5,800.00
PRODUCTION SUPPLIES	6,000.00	8,000.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,400.00	2,000.00
UTILITIES	1,050.00	1,320.00
TRAVEL	3,900.00	3,900.00
POSTAGE	3,900.00	4,900.00
INSURANCE	2,250.00	2,200.00
RENTALS & REPAIRS	1,400.00	1,500.00
SUBS & FEES	2,000.00	2,000.00
TAXES	700.00	700.00
MISC.	3,700.00	3,700.00
	$60,989.50	$69,895.00

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OUR BODIES OURSELVES BANNED FROM HIGH SCHOOL CLASS

GILROY, California (LNS)--The use of the women's health guide, Our Bodies Ourselves, in a high school class in Gilroy, California caused the school trustees to suspend approval of the course.

"It is one of the dirtiest, dirtiest books I've ever read," said one trustee.

Our Bodies Ourselves was on the reading list for a course called "Survival For Today". The teacher scheduled to teach the course had taught Home Economics for a long time but the trustees ordered that "Survival For Today" be suspended and replaced with "Advanced Foods".

According to the trustees, the book is "contrary to the predominant moral values of the taxpayers in the community...It is a political document and propoganda for socialist leftism."

(Thanks to CPS for this short.) --30--

3RD TRIAL OF GARY LAWTON AND ZUREBU GARDNER TO BEGIN IN CALIFORNIA

RIVERSIDE, California (LNS)--The third trial of Gary Lawton and Zurebu Gardner, accused of killing two Riverside policemen will begin on May 20, 1974. The first two trials ended in hung juries. A third trial for the same crime is unprecedented in California history.

"The Case of Gary Lawton and Zurebu Gardner", a 16 page booklet published by the Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization (VVAW/WSO), contains a chronological summary of events in the first two trials and background on the defendants.

To obtain a copy of this pamphlet, write or call: The Lawton/Gardner Offense/Defense Committee, P.O. Box 244, Riverside, California 92502. (714) 683-1465.

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(See packet #593 for related story.)

PROGESTIN-ONLY "MINI-PILL" HITS MARKET DESPITE DANGEROUS SIDE EFFECTS

(Editor's note: This is an edited version of an article by Belita H. Cowan which appeared in her-self, a women's paper from Ann Arbor, Michigan.)

NEW YORK (LNS)--Birth control pills are big business and recently companies like Syntex laboratories of Palo Alto, California have been losing customers for their birth control pills because of the adverse side effects caused by the estrogens in the pill.

Now, Syntex has developed an estrogen-free pill --NOR-QD--which it is pushing, via a massive publicity campaign, as the panacea for all those women who could not tolerate regular birth control pills.

NOR-QD, or the "mini-pill", consists of 35 mg of norethindrone, a synthetic progestin. The term "progestin" is used to describe certain kinds of synthetic progesterones. Progesterone is a naturally occurring female hormone.

The fallacy behind the development of NOR-QD is that an estrogen-free birth control pill will be less dangerous than a combination estrogen-progestin pill. However, there is no clinical evidence to show that progestin-based birth control pills will significantly reduce the chance of harmful side-effects to its user. Less than 3000 women have been tested with NOR-QD. Even so, the drop-out rate for medical reasons appears to be considerably higher than with conventional birth control pills.

Adverse reactions in women taking progestins include: edema-swelling of tissues due to fluid retention, absence or abnormal stoppage of menstruation, change in weight, change in cervical secretions and erosion, jaundice, rashes, depression, breast changes, skin changes, abnormal growth of body and facial hair, as well as migraines and other headaches.

In addition, very little is known about the way NOR-QD or, for that matter, any progestin-based oral contraceptive works. And the pregnancy rate is higher--three pregnancies per hundred women, 97%--than with the conventional birth control pill (99.9%).

It is thought that progestin affects the endometrium--the mucous coating of the uterus--and thus inhibits implantation of the egg. This may be the reason that a higher instance of tubal pregnancies --a dangerous condition which requires surgery--is being reported among women on such pills. Many times these tubal pregnancies go undiagnosed for quite a while since the side-effects of progestin-only birth control pills--spotting and breakthrough bleeding, lengthening of the menstrual cycle, and short periods of abnormal stoppage of menstrual periods-- are also symptoms of tubal pregnancy.

In addition, progestins have been found in the milk of nursing mothers. The long range effect on the nursing infant cannot be determined at this time. It is also not known at this time whether or not an all-progestin birth control pill will cause blood clotting as do conventional birth control pills.

However, women who do decide to use this new form of progestin-based birth control must be aware that these conditions may occur. Women who have a personal or family history of breast or genital cancer are advised to seek an alternative means of birth control over the oral contraceptive.

Some women who have taken the mini-pill have lost their regular menstrual cycle, or have stopped menstruating altogether.

Despite the huge number of potential NOR-QD users and the serious "side effects" at issue, Syntex Laboratories is satisfied with its limited clinical testing of only 3000 women and considers the drug "marketable". Yet the women who use NOR-QD are, in effect, guinea pigs in yet another medical experiment.

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ROBERT VESCO IS HARD OF HEARING WHEN ASKED ABOUT HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH NIXON

NEW YORK (LNS)--There was multimillionaire Robert Vesco, smirking into the camera while sitting in his new tropical home in the Bahamas, his latest stopping place since he fled the country a year ago to escape a federal bribery rap. That's the one in which he tried to influence a Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) investigation of his financial affairs by contributing $200,000 in cash to Nixon's 1972 presidential campaign.

Two old friends--John "Law and Order" Mitchell (former Attorney General and CREEP chairman) and Maurice Stans (former Certified Public Accountant of the Year and chairman of the Finance Committee to Reelect the President)--are now standing trial in New York on charges stemming from the same deal.

Vesco was sunning himself as Walter Cronkite of CBS interviewed him on a trans-Caribbean hook-up. The contribution was "in no way intended" to influence the SEC's investigation, said Vesco. He would have "contributed to the campaign in any event, whether there was or was not an SEC investigation going on at the time."

Attempting to pass the buck as to why the contribution was made in non-traceable cash, Vesco said "The person who actually said the contribution should be in cash was Murray Chotiner." Chotiner, conveniently, is dead. A long-time cronie of Nixon, who participated in his earliest red-scare smear campaigns, Chotiner was run over by a truck and killed in January.

"If your testimony could save Mitchell and Stans, won't you feel pretty guilty about staying down there and not rendering it?" Cronkite asked.

"Absolutely, it bothers me every day."

Finally Cronkite asked him: "Did you ever discuss the secret $200,000 contribution to the campaign with President Nixon?"

"Uh...let's go on to the next question."

Cronkite repeated it and Vesco answered, "I didn't hear the question too clearly and I'm sure if you spoke it 10 times, I still wouldn't hear it."

THE WAR RAGES ON IN QUANG NGAI PROVINCE; LETTER DESCRIBES ATTACKS BY SAIGON GOVERMENT

LIBERATION News Service

QUANG NGAI, South Vietnam (LNS)--"The most pressing news of the province right now seems to be the fact that they [ARVN -- South Vietnam's Army] have just brought in ranger units from parts north in order to 'pacify' parts of Quang Ngai province which have not been subdued before," wrote Phil Erikson, an American volunteer in South Vietnam, to Liberation News Service in late March. The Province is about 300 miles north of Saigon.

"There are major clearing operations going on right now [March 18] in Duc Luong village (Mo Duc district) and several other villages...along the coast of the South China Sea. Vietnamese friends tell me that these areas have consistently been held by the PRG and have not been 'pacified' heretofore, and that there are presently people living in these areas."

Erikson went on to report that bombing and shelling of the province has been exceptionally heavy recently although it is unclear whether the shelling relates directly to the ARVN military repression in the area. Both the pacification and the bombing are in direct violation of the Paris Peace Accords, signed in January of 1973.

The ARVN military move was corroborated by the head of USAID (United States Agency for International Development) operations in Quang Ngai, Doug Palmer. Writes Erikson: "Is it the intent of these operations to clear an area so that people can return to their ancestral areas to farm?' I asked Palmer. No, he thought it was 'just to pacify them.'

"Vietnamese observers from the area," continued Erikson, who speaks fluent Vietnamese, "seem to think exactly the opposite effect is taking place--that people are now living and farming in those areas, but with the military sweeps through the region, houses are being destroyed and people are being forced to leave the area."

In addition to the military attacks and bombing, the people of Quang Ngai are beset with other troubles. Via two Quaker personnel who recently visited Son Ha, the province's district capital, Erikson reports that the Hre people and other ethnic Vietnamese in other parts of the province, are on the verge of outright starvation.

"Reports are that people are eating leaves from trees and another plant that grows wild that is only eaten in desperate straits. It seems an obvious solution to this problem of starvation merely to have the people go back to the fields in the countryside surrounding the town, but the catch is that they are not being allowed to return. Police at the borders interfere with their coming and going, and the countryside is being shelled. While the Quakers were in Son Ha they saw helicpoters firing rockets into the countryside."

In addition to the Hre people at Son Ha, there are many former residents of Son Ha who have been living close to the defunct railroad station in the province for a number of years. They would like to return to their homes but they are not given passage back by plane, and the area between Quang Ngai city and Son Ha is "insecure" so ARVN will not allow them to travel by foot. Therefore the people have been forced to stay in the city although they have no land. Similar situations exist all over South Vietnam.

"The Protestant pastor of the Hre people reported to me that the people are so hungry there that they are now going out to steal food at night time to stay alive," wrote Erikson. "He said that three women have been shot to death as they were stealing food at night."

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NAVAL ACADEMY'S DEPT. OF "MANAGEMENT SCIENCE" DEVELOPS DEVICE TO DETECT DAYDREAMING

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland (LNS)--According to a Washington Post report, the U.S. Navy has developed a machine that can detect daydreaming. The result of research at the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, the machine can be used "to keep attention sharp when a tedious or lengthy job is involved," according to a scientist working on the project.

Though the Navy tried to dispell fears about the sinister aspects of such a machine, the simple fact that it was developed by the Naval Academy's "Department of Management Science" is ominous enough. Professor Karel Montor of Management Science explained that the device could be used to keep airplane pilots, radar and sonar operators and long distance truck drivers alert. He denied that the Navy has any intention of using the machine to see whether Naval Academy students are daydreaming during studies. No mention was made of its possible use in civilian jobs.

The "daydream-warning" system is designed to sound an alarm if a person hooked up to it is not concentrating. According to Montor, recent studies have revealed brain wave differences between "a person who was reading the words of a book but was thinking about something else" and someone who was actually concentrating on the reading. Montor explained that these observations led to the development of an "attention-level analyzer" which, when combined with an "allowable daydream factor", makes the machine workable.

"When the individual exceeds the allowable daydream factor," explained Montor, "he will be so alerted by a tone. If he continues to daydream beyond an acceptable limit, a second alarm will sound, notifying a third person."

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If anything is happening in your area that you think we should be covering, let us know. Write to us at 160 Claremont Ave or call (212) 749-2200

ARGENTINE ERP KIDNAPS USIA EMPLOYEE WHO SERVED IN THAILAND, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND SOUTH VIETNAM.

CORDOBA,Argentina(LNS)-- The Argentine People's Revolutionary Army (ERP) struck again in the early morning of April 12, kidnapping Alfred A. Laun,III, a U.S. Information Agency (USIA) employee.

Laun was kidnapped from his home in Cordoba, where he has worked since September, 1972. According to the ERP, he resisted and was wounded, suffering gunshot wounds in the stomach and shoulder. About 24 hours after the kidnapping, Laun was found alongside a river in the center of the city. He was hooked up to a blood plasma apparatus and, laying hear his body was a complete record of his medical treatment.

The ERP, like the Tupamaros of Uruguay, count professionals, including physicians, among their members. Apparently, the ERP did not have the facilities to adequately treat Laun's wounds, which required surgery, and decided to release him for treatment.

The U.S. press, whose first reports admitted that Laun had been treated medically, later changed their stories to charge that Laun had been "left for dead" after the kidnapping failed. In the later stories, all reference to the blood plasma and medical history were deleted.

The ERP charges that Laun is a CIA operative who served as "a liason in the fascist military coup against our brother people in Chile." In addition, the ERP charged that Laun had served in the Dominican Republic, South Vietnam, Brazil and Bolivia.

In a radio message communicating Laun's whereabouts upon his release, the ERP explained that they wished to interrogate him about his "activities as a CIA agent."

Spokesmen for the U.S. Embassy vehemently denied that Laun, who speaks Spanish and Thai, was a CIA operative. However, they admitted that he had served in Thailand, South Vietnam and the Dominican Republic.

According to the State Department's Biographic Register (a compilation of biographies of all State Department employees) Laun went to the University of Wisconsin and worked in the broadcast industry from his graduation until 1962. In 1963, he joined the USIA's Public Affairs Training Program and was assigned to the Dominican Republic, as an Information Officer, in 1964.

He remained in the Dominican Republic until 1967, receiving a promotion during that time. It was during that period that the U.S. sponsored the overthrow of the legally elected government of left-leaning Juan Bosch. That activity eventually culminated in the U.S. Marines invading the Dominican Republic in 1965.

In 1967, Laun entered at Thai language training program and was subsequently assigned to Chieng Mai, Thailand, as an Assistant Public Affairs Officer, where he remained until August, 1970.

From August, 1970 until he arrived in Cordoba in 1972, Laun served as a "field representative" for the USIA in Saigon, South Vietnam.

On April 6, 1970, President Nixon issued an Executive Order which expanded the USIA role in South Vietnam. The Order called for the USIA to, "lend appropriate support in psychological warfare to the military cpmmand in the theatre of active military operations and provide daily guidance and basic information materials."

The USIA, under the authority of this order, played a key role in the execution of Operation Phoenix, the CIA plan to assassinate suspected sympathizers of the National Liberation Front. According to the New York Times, "By May, 1971, 20,587 people had been killed under the Phoenix program."

Laun, in his role as a "field representative" for the USIA, must have participated in these programs.

There is no public record of Laun ever having served in Bolivia or Brazil as the ERP has charged. However, their charge that he served as a "liason" with the junta forces in Chile is highly plausible considering that the ERP confiscated a short-wave transmitter/receiver from his home during the kidnapping. The embassy says that Laun is a ham radio operator; that it is his "hobby." However, it has already been charged, by Chilean anti-junta forces, that the U.S. actively participated in the overthrow of Allende's government by supplying a plane which served as a communications center.

The plane, supplied by the National Security Agency, was equipped with highly sophisticated communications equipment. Using a U.S. Air Force base (under the U.S. Southern Command) near Mendoza, Argentina, the plane made several flights over Chile on Sept. 10 and 11.

At this point, the ERP has offered no concrete proof that Laun is a CIA agent, although a glance at his past certainly lends credence to their suspicions. If he is not connected with the CIA, it is likely that he is connected with any one of several other U.S. intelligence operations which, though independent, often work in conjunction with the CIA.

At the very least, in his overt role as an employee of the USIA, Laun is involved in psychological warfare, selling U.S. counterinsurgency efforts to hostile populations.

Laun's condition is reported, by the U.S.embassy, to be improving rapidly.

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[Thanks to NACLA for some of this information. For information on the USIA, see NACLA's pamphlet "USIA: Pushing the Big Lie," Sept. 1972. Also, for background on U.S. military involvement in Chile coup, see LNS #578. For background on Argentina, see LNS #596.]

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REMEMBER FOLKS, we really are your news service. Besides keeping us alive financially, remember to keep us informed on what is happening in your area. If something happens that you think we should be covering, write us something and send some photos. We gotta stick together folks.

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